

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 02382 211632Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----012024 211926Z /41

P 211522Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6871
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2382

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ICJ, UY
SUBJECT: CANDIDACIES FOR INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

REF: GENEVA 10704

1. PARA 4 REF SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY MIGHT WISH TO CHECK WITH FONOFF WHETHER JUDGE JIMENEZ DE ARECHAGA OF URUGUAY MIGHT AFTER ALL STAND FOR REELECTION TO ICJ. DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN POLICY AT FONMINISTRY, AMBASSADOR GIAMBRUNO, CONFIRMED TO CHARGE JULY 20 THAT DE ARECHAGA DEFINITELY WILL NOT STAND FOR REELECTION. GIAMBRUNO SAID THIS IS LARGELY PERSONAL DECISION OF DE ARECHAGA WHO WISHES TO RETURN TO URUGUAY AFTER NINE YEARS ABSENCE. GIAMBRUNO SAID HE WOULD SHORTLY UNDERTAKE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL GROUP FOR URUGUAY AND THAT URUGUAYANS WOULD BE SUPPORTING SETTE CAMARA OF BRAZIL.

2. COMMENT: DE ARECHAGA IS IN AN ALMOST UNIQUE POSITION AS AN URUGUAYAN WHO NOT ONLY HAS IMPRESSIVE INTERNATIONAL STATURE BUT IS ALSO UNTAINTED BY EVENTS IN URUGUAY OVER THE PAST NINE YEARS. HE IS THEREFORE WIDELY TOUTED AS A PRESIDENTIAL PROSPECT FOR 1981 WHEN THE MILITARY ARE
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COMMITTED TO PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS BASED ON A SINGLE CANDIDATE OF THE TWO TRADITIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES. EVEN IF HE IS NOT TAPPED FOR THE PRESIDENCY, DE ARECHAGA WILL VERY LIKELY PLAY SOME SORT OF MAJOR ROLE NOT ONLY IN THE POST-1981 GOVERNMENT BUT IN EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE ELECTIONS, SUCH AS THE DRAFTING OF A NEW CONSTITUTION, NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE POLITICAL PARTIES, SOME

RETURN TO A RULE OF LAW, ETZ. WE THEREFORE ACCEPT THAT
HIS DECISION TO RETURN IS FIRM.
CHEEK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MONTEV02382
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780300-0759
Format: TEL
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780734/aaaabcgf.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 24ea146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 GENEVA 10704
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1927406
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANDIDACIES FOR INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
TAGS: PORG, UY, ICJ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/24ea146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014